

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
determining, by an instant messaging client, an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message, wherein the determining comprises comparing an email address of the contact identified to an address book database and retrieving an instant messaging address of the contact identified from the address book database, and then using the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present; and
initiating, by the instant messaging client, an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determining that the contact is present.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein initiating the IM chat session comprises:
generating an IM chat window;
obtaining information from the email message; and
displaying the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein obtaining information from the email message comprises:
obtaining a subject of the email message.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein displaying the obtained information comprises:
displaying the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein displaying the subject of the email message comprises:
providing the subject of the email message as an IM chat message.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein obtaining information from the email message comprises:
obtaining a body of the email message.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein displaying the obtained information comprises:
displaying the body of the email message in the generated IM chat window.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein displaying the body of the email message comprises:
providing the body of the email message as an IM chat message.
9. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
means for, at an instant messaging client, determining an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message, wherein the means for determining compares an email address of the contact identified to an address book database and retrieves an instant messaging address of the contact identified from the address book database, and then uses the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present;
and
means for, at an instant messaging client, initiating an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determining that the contact is present.

10. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

presence logic, at an instant messaging client, configured to determine an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message, wherein the presence logic compares an email address of the contact identified to an address book database and retrieves an instant messaging address of the contact identified from the address book database, and then uses the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present; and

chat-initiation logic, at an instant messaging client, configured to initiate an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determine that the contact is present.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, further comprising:

chat-window-generation logic configured to generate an IM chat window;
information-retrieval logic configured to obtain information from the email message;

and

display logic configured to display the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

subject-retrieval logic configured to obtain a subject of the email message.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, further comprising:

subject-display logic configured to display the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine, at an instant messaging client, an Internet presence of a contact from an email message, wherein the determining comprises comparing an email address of the contact to an address book database and retrieving an instant messaging address of the contact from the address book database, and then using the retrieved instant messaging address to determine that the contact is present; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to initiate, at an instant messaging client, an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determining that the contact is present.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to generate an IM chat window;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain information from the email message; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a subject of the email message.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the subject of the email message as an IM chat message.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a body of the email message.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, further comprising:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the body of the email message in the generated IM chat window; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the body of the email message as an IM chat message.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the Internet presence includes presence of a user on an instant messaging account.